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SOURCE Ogólnopolski Tygodnik Gospodarczy.POLISH GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL RESEARCH

The First Polish Scientific Congress gave one of its highest priorities to geological research and research on extraction, processing, and enrichment of domestic ores.

Contrary to prevalent opinion, Poland is not poor in raw materials. Prof Dr Walery Goetel stated that Poland's geological conditions favor the occurrence of many kinds of minerals. Through careful geological prospecting and application of proper methods of exploitation, new vistas are opening up for petroleum and some ores which were considered near exhaustion.

Even in black coal, Poland's leading raw mineral, recent research of the Akademia Gorniczo-Hutnicza (Mining and Metallurgical Academy), Panstwowy Instytut Geologiczny (State Geological Institute), and the Główny Instytut Gornictwa (Main Institute of Mining) indicates further probable discoveries of coking coal, essential to the vigorously expanding metallurgical industry.

Through geological studies, important new deposits of brown coal have been discovered in recent years. Further such discoveries are expected, particularly in the western and northern parts of Poland. Brown coal at present is valued less as a fuel than as a chemical raw material.

Peat is found in many parts of Poland. Exploitation of peat is of particular importance in areas that are poor in other raw minerals. Fortunately, high-quality peat is found in such areas.

Iron ore is of particular interest to Poland's economy. It is anticipated that during the Six-Year Plan, iron-ore extraction will increase many times. Intensified work by geologists is needed for the discovery of iron-ore deposits and for supervision of their exploitation.

- 1 -

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At present, particular consideration is given to the production of non-ferrous ores. Data show that it will be possible to increase the production of zinc, lead, copper, nickel, and other nonferrous metal ores, essential to the development of industry and technology.

According to Professor Goetel, Poland's reserves of petroleum and natural gas are not exhausted, and efforts need not be directed entirely to the production of synthetic gasoline. Because of existing geological conditions in Poland, the discovery of new oil and natural gas fields and increased production in proven fields are possible.

In Kujawy, a large salt deposit has been discovered which contains not only rock salt, but also potassium salts. This salt deposit will be a source of raw materials for many branches of the chemical industry.

Rocks and clays, neglected before the war, must be exploited to meet the demand for building materials, ceramics, refractory materials, and glass.

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- 2 -

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